

## What's Playing in Africa: Tuesday, June 15, 2010

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### In the Headlines:

- Rally attack highlights division over Kenya charter
- Military joins hunt for Nairobi Park bombers
- Zuma team back in Zimbabwe
- Zimbabwe: Mugabe to denounce corrupt central bank officials?
- Somalia's Hizbu Islam maybe nearing its end
- Somali militants threaten world cup TV viewers
- Activists' death irks Congo ahead of independence fest
- Darfur mediator says peace deal to be reached before S. Sudan referendum
- G8 Summit: Ethiopia, Nigeria, Egypt, and five other African countries invited
- Guinea army arrests not linked to elections
- Few surprises in Sudan's new government
- Mo Ibrahim fund to train leaders
- Botswana inflation to rise, cloud on revenues: IMF
- Liberia, BHP sign \$3 bln iron ore deal
- Bus drivers' strike leave hundreds of fans stranded

### Governance

<http://en.afrik.com/article17773.html>

#### **G8 Summit: Ethiopia, Nigeria, Egypt, and five other African countries invited**

The role of African nations in world affairs has been highlighted in the forthcoming G-8 summit in Canada. Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa have been invited to attend a special session at the summit in Huntsville, Ontario from June 25-27, 2010. According to reports, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said in a statement that he invited African governments as well as the governments of Haiti, Jamaica and Columbia in order to make the summit more inclusive. The theme for this summit is "Recovery and New Beginning. While International anti-poverty campaigners expect many of the commitments for African aid and development to be fulfilled, special attention will be focused on Canada. However, the tentative agenda for the 36th G8 summit will include some issues which remain unresolved from previous summits.

<http://en.afrik.com/article17776.html>

#### **Zimbabwe: Mugabe to denounce corrupt central bank officials?**

The ongoing looting of Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) assets by an elite clique of senior government officials has forced President Mugabe to act. RBZ, which is saddled by local and international debts is rapidly losing assets ranging from top of the range vehicles, buses, generators, tractors, farm equipment, and furniture. And amid growing concerns that Zimbabwean government officials have

resorted to looting public property whenever an opportunity arises, creditors have also begun auctioning RBZ companies and houses to recover their monies. Latest RBZ documents on the auctions of central bank property show that a vice-president and several ministers have bought RBZ assets acting on inside information. Sources within the Office of the President and Cabinet at the weekend disclosed that Mugabe would on Friday issue a statutory instrument in terms of the Presidential Powers (Temporary Measures) Act to deal with the issue.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/africa/10312755.stm>

#### **Guinea army arrests not linked to elections**

The arrest of several army officers in Guinea is not linked to elections due in two weeks' time, the army chief has said. Col Nouhou Thiam said the detentions were over allegations of financial impropriety. Several of those detained were close to the former military ruler, Capt Moussa Dadis Camara, who was shot in the head in an assassination attempt last year. The army has promised to step down after the poll on 27 June. The BBC's Alhassan Sillah in Conakry says the arrests had led to wild rumours circulating in the capital. But Col Thiam now says the officers were picked up following the publication of an internal audit report on the armed forces that implicated them in the alleged misuse of funds running to tens of thousands of US dollars.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/Zuma%20team%20back%20in%20Zimbabwe%20/-/1066/938766/-/gvm6iwz/-/index.html>

#### **Zuma team back in Zimbabwe**

South African President Jacob Zuma has dispatched his facilitation team back to Zimbabwe to revive the stalled power sharing talks amid evidence of a fierce battle for the control of the unity government between President Robert Mugabe and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai. The talks have been on hold for the past two months as the three member facilitation team waited for Mr. Mugabe, Mr. Tsvangirai and Deputy Prime Minister Professor Arthur Mutambara to consider a report compiled by negotiators from the Zanu PF party and the two Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) formations. The former rivals finally met last week and referred a number of issues that the parties failed to reach consensus on to President Zuma.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE65D0G320100614>

#### **Rally attack highlights division over Kenya charter**

Grenade attacks at a Kenyan rally may have been carried out by those seeking to block the passage in August of a proposed constitution to protect their personal interests, analysts said on Monday. The "No" campaign rejected any accusations of involvement after at least six people were killed and more than 100 were injured in blasts at Sunday's prayer meeting organised by church leaders who are also opposing the proposed law. Analysts said compatriots in the "No" camp, some of whom had benefitted from years of corrupt government to amass large tracts of land illegally, could be to blame.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE65D0OM20100614>

#### **Kenyan green group seeks ban on Ethiopian power**

A Kenyan conservation group has appealed to the nation's high court to prevent the government and an energy company from buying power produced by the vast Gibe 111 hydropower dam in neighbouring Ethiopia. Ethiopia hopes the 1.4 billion euro project will nearly double its power generation capacity, currently just under 2,000 MW, end power cuts at home and allow the Horn of Africa nation to export electricity. But conservation groups fear the dam will harm the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people in both nations.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/Military%20joins%20hunt%20for%20Nairobi%20park%20bombers/-/1056/938868/-/ei5l7q/-/index.html>

### **Military joins hunt for Nairobi Park bombers**

The Kenyan Government on Monday called in the military to help investigate a grenade attack on a crusade at Uhuru Park on Sunday in which six people were killed and 104 injured. Military personnel will work with officers from the Criminal Investigations Department and the General Service Unit. So far, investigations have confirmed that three grenades were lobbed into the crowd. Investigators have already recovered pins, a security feature in a grenade which arms the device when it is removed, and the tail sections. The tails confirmed that stun grenades were used against the worshippers. The government, which believes that someone planned the mass murder of Kenyans, has moved with rare determination. The National Security Council met on Monday under the chairmanship of the President and appeared to have resolved to go out of its way to reassure the public. Police confirmed that they had found a man dead behind the wheel of a car at Uhuru Park. They said he was either in his late thirties or early forties and still had his car keys. The man had injuries caused by a grenade and still had his mobile phone. Investigators do not know if he was an innocent bystander who was trying to get to hospital after being injured.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/Mo%20Ibrahim%20fund%20to%20%20train%20leaders/-/1066/938772/-/13164brz/-/index.html>

### **Mo Ibrahim fund to train leaders**

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation is to launch a new initiative dubbed "Ibrahim Leadership Fellowships" a programme designed to identify and prepare the next generation of outstanding African leaders by providing them with mentoring opportunities in key multilateral institutions. A statement emailed to the Ghana News yesterday said "The programme seeks to attract a number of highly qualified and talented professionals each year to serve in leading institutions whose core objective to improve the prospects of the people of Africa". It further said the Foundation was currently working with pan-African organizations to design the fellowships and would announced details of them at the Foundation's annual celebration and forum on governance to be held in Mauritius in November this year. The statement said applications would be open shortly afterwards and they expected the first Leadership Fellows to begin their Fellowships early next year.

### **Conflict**

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/Somalia%20Hizbu%20Islam%20%20may%20be%20nearing%20its%20end/-/1066/938776/-/14wqn5dz/-/index.html>

### **Somalia's Hizbu Islam maybe nearing its end**

A landmark ceremony took place in Beledweyne town, the capital of Hiran region, 335 km north of Mogadishu yesterday, where the regional authority of Hizbu Islam, one of the Islamist organizations opposing the Transitional Federal Government in Somalia, merged with Al-Shabaab, the top militant group in Somalia.

Sheikh Abdulkadir Haji Ahmed, the Chief of Hizbu Islam's Mobilisation Officer in Beledweyne town, announced that his group resolved to join Al-Shabaab. Talking to an audience, the sheikh recited verses of the Holy Koran, pointing to the need to unite the insurgents in Somalia.

[http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia\\_27/Somali\\_militants\\_threaten\\_World\\_Cup\\_TV\\_viewers.shtml](http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somali_militants_threaten_World_Cup_TV_viewers.shtml)

### **Somali militants threaten world cup TV viewers**

Somali militants have threatened football fans they will be publicly flogged - or worse - if they are caught watching the World Cup on TV. Gangs of Islamists are reported to be patrolling the areas they control

looking for people watching games. Dedicated fans are watching matches in secret, or in the few areas controlled by government forces. On Saturday militants killed two people as they attacked a house where people were watching a game. Militant group Hizbul-Islam also arrested 10 others at the house north-east of the capital Mogadishu where fans were watching the game between Argentina and Nigeria.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/Activist%20death%20irks%20Congo%20%20before%20independence%20fest/-/1066/938844/-/qdocxkz/-/index.html>

#### **Activists' death irks Congo ahead of independence fest**

The mysterious death of Democratic Republic of Congo's top rights activist threatens to undermine President Joseph Kabila's attempt to draw a line under the nation's troubled past with a lavish independence jubilee. Mr. Floribert Chebeya, who has faced past harassment for work against arbitrary killings and torture of political dissidents, was found dead in his car two weeks ago after being summoned to meet the chief of the national police. "This has been a public relations disaster for Congo and very harmful," said one diplomat in the capital Kinshasa. "(The death of) one of the best known human rights activists ahead of the anniversary of independence couldn't send a worse signal to the international community," the diplomat said of the June 30 celebration, which UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the king of former colonial power Belgium are due to attend.

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article35393>

#### **Darfur mediator says peace deal to be reached before S. Sudan referendum**

The African Union (AU)-United Nations (UN) Joint Chief Mediator Dijibril Bassole, told the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) today that a final peace agreement should be signed before the South Sudan referendum on self determination scheduled for January 2011. The date had been determined during a joint consultative meeting between the AU and the UN held early May in Addis Ababa. The meeting also reaffirmed the need for an inclusive process taking into account all issues of concerns to the people of Darfur. The session also decided that, to achieve this objective, the Joint Chief mediator has to work in coordination with the chief of the UN mission in Sudan (UNMIS) envoy and the head of Darfur peacekeeping mission (UNAMID) under the leadership of the former South African President Thabo Mbeki who heads the AU High Level Implementation Panel (A

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article35397>

#### **Few surprises in Sudan's new government**

The long awaited new cabinet in Sudan came at little surprise to most observers who expected the dominant National Congress Party (NCP) to keep many key figures in the post-election government. The NCP won around 95 percent of parliamentary seats in the north in April's elections, giving them more than the required two-thirds majority to make constitutional changes. The former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) won most of the southern seats, around 20 percent of the total parliament.

#### **Economic**

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE65D0MG20100614>

#### **Botswana inflation to rise, cloud on revenues: IMF**

Botswana could experience a temporary rise in inflation, while declining mineral and customs receipts might put a squeeze on government revenues, the International Monetary Fund said on Monday. In statement at the end of a mission visit to the world's largest diamond producer, the IMF said increases in the value added tax and electricity tariffs were expected to feed through to inflation, before easing back within the Bank of Botswana's 3-6 percent target range during the course of 2011. Botswana raised

the VAT to 12 percent from 10 percent effective in April to address a budget deficit after revenue plunged in the wake of the global financial crisis.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE65D09Z20100614>

#### **Liberia, BHP sign \$3 bln iron ore deal**

BHP Billiton has signed a \$3 billion deal with Liberia to develop a large-scale iron ore project, an official in the West African country said on Monday. The company is the latest in a string of mining firms that have signed deals for iron ore projects in West Africa -- a politically unstable region, home to some of the world's last great undeveloped minerals deposits -- as prices of the steelmaking raw material rise after slumping in 2009. The mineral development agreement (MDA) will allow BHP Billiton to continue exploring for iron ore at Goe Fantro, Kintoma, St. John River South and the Tolo Range, National Investment Commission Chairman Richard Tolbert said.

#### **World Cup**

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE65D0PT20100614>

#### **Bus drivers' strike leave hundreds of fans stranded**

A few hundred soccer fans were stranded in Johannesburg on Monday after the Netherlands-Denmark game in Soccer City when bus drivers went on impromptu strike. Drivers were complaining they were not given sufficient warning that they would be expected to work longer hours during the first soccer World Cup on African soil. "We made alternate arrangements for all passengers after drivers went on an illegal stoppage," said Lisa Seftel, the executive director for transportation in the City of Johannesburg. She said officials were in negotiations with drivers in order to prevent a recurrence.